Setting up of National Power Grid

*39. SHRI RAM CHANDRA VIKAL:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1354 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th March, 1987 and state:

(a) what is the latest position in regard to the setting up of the national power grid;

(b) whether Government favour the setting up of mini and small hydel Projects to harness the waters of small rivers too; and

(c) if so, what is the contemplated programme in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) About 6290 Circuit Kilometers of 400 kV transmission lines associated with the Central Sector Power Projects have been completed. In addition, about 5210 Circuit Kilometers of Inter-State transmission lines have also been constructed so far. Permanent Regional Load Despatch Centres have started functioning in the Northern, Southern Western and Eastern regions, and an interim Regional Load Despatch Centre is functioning in the North-Eastern region.

(b) and (c) About 100 micro, mini and small hydro-electric schemes with an aggregate capacity of 183.5 MW are under operation in the country and about 88 such schemes with an aggregate capacity of 220 MW are under construction.

Drug Price Rise under New DPCO

*40. SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the new Drug Price Control Order stipulates 10 to 20 per cent rise in the prices causing a euphoria in the Pharmaceutical Industry;

(b) if so, whether the said DPCO was issued to ensure further profits to the industry at the cost of the consumers; and

(c) what were the reasons for issuing the said DPCO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) Prices of some Category II formulations are likely to go up due to higher rates of MAPE provided for such formulations in the Drug (Prices Control) Order, 1987 while the prices of some of the Category I formulations are likely to be reduced.

(b) and (c) Drug (Prices Control) Order, 1987 is based on the Measures for Rationalisation, Quality Control and Growth of Drugs & Pharmaceutical Industry in India announced by the Government in December 1986 which are aimed at protecting the interests of the consumers also by improving the availability of Drugs at reasonable prices.

Power Supply to Agricultural Sector

114. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any initiatives have been taken to ensure uninterrupted supply of electricity to the agricultural sector; and

(b) if so, what are the salient features of such a programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) Yes, Sir.